

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An all-terrain vehicle comprising:
 - a frame;
 - at least four wheels supporting the frame, two of which are front wheels and two of which are rear wheels, the front wheels defining a front axis and the rear wheels defining a rear axis;
 - a wheelbase defined by the front axis and the rear axis;
 - an engine disposed on the frame for driving at least one of the wheels;
 - handlebars disposed on the frame for steering at least one of the wheels;
 - a straddle driver seat disposed on the frame; and
 - a module receptacle on the frame, the module receptacle including a selectively releasable connector for selectively securing a modular component to the receptacle.
2. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wheelbase is not less than 55 inches.
3. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1 and 2, wherein the wheelbase is between 55 and 78 inches.
4. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1 to 3, wherein the receptacle is disposed substantially behind the driver's seat.

5. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1 to 3, wherein the receptacle is disposed behind the driver's seat.
6. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1 to 3, further comprising an electrical connector for providing an electrical connection to the modular component.
7. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1 to 3, wherein the modular component is selected from a group consisting of a passenger seat, a cargo container and a cargo rack.
8. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the receptacle is adapted to secure the modular component at a forward connection point and at a rearward connection point.
9. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1 to 4, wherein the connector comprises one of a post adapted to engage a socket disposed on the modular component and a socket adapted to engage a post disposed on the modular component.
10. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1 to 4, wherein the connector comprises one of a rod adapted to be engaged by a hook disposed on the modular component and a hook adapted to engage a rod disposed on the modular component.
11. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the connector comprises one of a locking post adapted to engage a latch mechanism on the

modular component and a latch mechanism adapted to engage a locking post on the modular component.

12. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1 to 4, further comprising a modular component releasably secured to the receptacle.
13. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 12, wherein the modular component includes a passenger straddle seat.
14. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 12, wherein the modular component includes a cargo rack.
15. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wheels each include a low-pressure balloon tire.
16. The all-terrain vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the module receptacle is a first module receptacle, and wherein the vehicle further comprises a second module receptacle on the frame, the second module receptacle including a selectively releasable connector for selectively securing the modular component to the receptacle, whereby the module component may be selectively secured to one of the first module receptacle and the second module receptacle.
17. A modular component suitable for use in association with an all-terrain vehicle, the all-terrain vehicle comprising:
a frame;

four wheels supporting the frame, two of which are front wheels and two of which are rear wheels, the front wheels defining a front axis and the rear wheels defining a rear axis;

a wheelbase defined by the front axis and the rear axis;

an engine disposed on the frame for driving at least one of the wheels;

handlebars disposed on the frame for steering at least one of the wheels;

a straddle driver's seat disposed on the frame; and

a module receptacle on the frame, the receptacle including a selectively releasable connector for selectively securing a modular component to the receptacle;

the modular component being sized and dimensioned to be secured to the receptacle and comprising a connector suitable for mating with the connector of the module receptacle.

18. The modular component as claimed in claim 17, wherein the modular component includes a passenger straddle seat.

19. The modular component as claimed in a claim 17, wherein the modular component includes a cargo rack.

20. The modular component as claimed in claim 17, further comprising an electrical connector for providing an electrical connection to the modular component.